

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 61050-03893

Title: LCAC IN RELIEF OPERATIONS

Operation/Exercise Name: SEA ANGEL

Observed: 11 May 1991

Originator: RLT-5

POC: COL RA GANGLE Commercial:

DSN:

5. (U) OBSERVATION:

Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) operations are an excellent means of transporting large amounts of relief supplies to people living on islands and costal areas. While LCAC's provide tremendous capabilities, some problems were encountered in using LCAC's in the Cox's Bazar area of Bangladesh.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

Planners desired to take advantage of the tremendous lift capability of the LCAC. An excellent landing beach was identified adjacent to the airfield at Cox's Bazar. Reconnaissance flights and boat trips revealed adequate drop-off beaches on the islands needing supplies. At this point LCAC operations appeared to be very promising. However, discussions with local officials and inland reconnaissance of the areas needing supplies revealed problems with infrastructure and host nation transportation. In all cases, the host nation could not transport the supplies from the LCAC CLZ to the storage centers. The islands considered had no vehicles and no road network to support the movement of supplies. In one case, a walk of the ground revealed that the local citizens would have had to carry 40 tons of supplies, on their backs, over 2 miles on narrow trails (which in some cases were under water).

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

In disaster relief operations, LCACs provide a tremendous capability. However, aggressive reconnaissance, along with liaison with local officials, must be accomplished to ensure that an LCAC operation is suited to the local situation.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Prior tot conducting LCAC operations, talk to local officials concerning possible drop-off CLZ's and

determine the condition of the island transportation networks.

9. (U) COMMENTS:

NONE

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